

NEWTON YOUTH COMMISSION Meeting

October 1, 2008 MINUTES

Location: Newton City Hall Cafeteria

Present: Richard Dyer, Donna Gordon, Police Officer Jeffrey Mace, Ellen Manning, Stephanie Pelkowsky, Stephen Ross, Terance Sack, Sharon O. Stout, Kirsten Tuohy
Students: Greg Kelley, Jennie Krems

Regrets: Anthony Bibbo, Marianne Cook, Joe DeVito, Matt Green, Peter Harrington, Joanne Kazarian, John Staulo, Robert Staulo
Students: Maya Guttman

Staff: Beverly Droz, Director, Human and Volunteer Services

Guests: Chris Fortunato, Allison Clott (NNHS), Tamra Matama (NNHS), Zoe Pepper-Cunningham (NNHS), Kyle Russo (NSHS), Adam Sangiolo (NSHS), Annie Staulo (NNHS), Ariana Tabatabaie (NNHS)

The meeting was opened at 7:05pm and chaired by Richard Dyer. Bev extended Joe De Vito's regrets due to the death of his grandmother.

Introductions were made and we welcomed many new students along with Officer Jeffrey Mace who is the new representative to the Youth Commission from the Newton Police Department

A motion to accept the minutes of September 3, 2008 passed.

Treasurer's report: no activity to report

Nominations:

Bev noted that at the September meeting we had re-appointed Greg Kelley for his 2nd year; at the June meeting, we had appointed Maya Guttman and Jennie Krems for this 2008-2009 year.

The student applications for the Youth Commission before us this evening included: Samuel Arsenault (NNHS senior), Allison Clott (NNHS senior), Tamra Matama (NNHS sophomore), Zoe Pepper-Cunningham (NNHS junior), Kyle Russo (NSHS sophomore), Adam Sangiolo (NSHS junior), Annie Staulo (NNHS senior), Ariana Tabatabaie (NNHS junior).

A motion was made and passed to accept all the above student applicants for this 2008-2009 year.

Bev noted that Emma Collins (NSHS), Grace Herman (NSHS) and Lia Pagliuso (NSHS) had attended the 9/17/08 Autumn Invasion Planning meeting but had not yet submitted an application for the Youth Commission. It was again noted that adult members need to help get students involved by May of each year so that they can participate over the summer in the planning of Autumn Invasion before we reach the fall season.

A motion was also made and passed to appoint Christopher Fortunato to the Youth Commission Advisory Board.

Other Business / Programs:

Bev reported she was back in touch with the assistant for Christine Duvivier and Dr. Ned Hallowell as potential speakers for a Youth Commission event. Their company is PositiveLeaders.com and they gave a joint presentation entitled "Unwrap Your Teen's Gifts" at the Wellesley Library sponsored by the Wellesley Youth Commission this past spring. They are booking fall and winter dates for their 2-hour awareness-building presentation to parents. They would give us a reduced rate of \$200-300 in exchange for our mailing list, and with our help doing outreach. Bev explained to the assistant that we didn't have a mailing list or the resources to promote a public event.

Kirsten said QPR raises awareness of suicide in youth and teaches what to do if you're worried about a friend. They do a 1-hour presentation in the schools. She'll find out more.

Chris Fortunato said that a program need is "Orientation to College Transition" and he would be willing to help the Youth Commission with that at no cost.

Bev noted the Human Rights Commission is exploring doing a program on bullying, and if so, it would make sense for the Youth Commission to co-sponsor it since we had previously discussed possibly doing such a program.

Ellen let everyone know that The Student Center of Newton Community Service Center, which is located at 429 Cherry Street in West Newton, is available for all Newton youth to use for meetings or small events. Just call for more information to 617-244-1404 x372.

Autumn Invasion Planning

We're on for Sunday, Oct. 19, arriving at 10:30am to start set-up, the event is noon to 4pm, and then we have clean-up.

Adults willing to help include Ellen, Stephanie, Sharon, Kirsten, Terry if he's in town, and Annie said John Staulo will be there.

Bev reported she lined up Whole Foods as the "Gold Leaf Sponsor" providing water bottles, sodas and bagged chips for several hundred. Sharon offered her truck and will pick-up the donation. Sharon solicited Cabot's Ice Cream and a photo from the Red Sox. Buff's Pub will again provided wings. Donna is pursuing Anna's Tacqueria. Greg solicited Harris Cyclery who again provided a quality bicycle lock for the raffle. Students will try to get some other raffle contributions.

Students said the following bands are interested: Sometimes Why (NNHS), Band St. Cool (NNHS), Downtown Collective (NNHS), Dunes (NSHS), Super Fluid (NSHS), North Station (NSHS) and the Adam Sangiolo Band (NSHS). We discussed scheduling the bands. If they play for a 1/2 hour and have 15 minutes between acts to switch, we need 5 to 6 bands total.

Stephanie and Allison will help with oversight of band scheduling. Jennie and Adam at NSHS and Annie at NNHS will work on the PR and outreach. Stephanie will arrange the trash barrels and pick-up with her Parks & Recreation Dept, and contact the Health Dept. regarding the food needing sterno warmers. Bev is lining up the custodian and will have the tables, chairs, chaffing dishes, paper goods, and other items out-of-storage and ready to roll out of City Hall when we meet Sunday morning.

The overall logistic details of running were discussed. Students will collect money and oversee the raffle table. Adults will staff the food tables and we'll again have a donations jar. Bev made an updated flyer to advertise the event and most members took some.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, NOVEMBER 5 at 7:00pm in the City Hall cafeteria.